

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-21 were previously pending in the application. Claim 18 is canceled and new claim 22 is added. Therefore, claims 1-17 and 19-22 are presented for consideration.

Claims 5-17 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

Claims 1-4 and 18-21 are rejected as unpatentable over KRISCHER 2,791,780 in view of METTE 6,079,057. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 18 and recites a front splash guard extending from a continuous edge. The front splash guard extends into an opening (of the device) toward the back wall.

By way of example, Figure 1 of the present invention shows a front splash guard 25. Figures 5A, 5B, and 5C show various embodiments of the splash guard 25 extending from the continuous edge 9, and Figure 4 shows the front splash guard extending into the opening 10.

Figure 1 of KRISCHER shows a collection device having an opening 14. However, opening 14 is merely a reduction of material taken from wall 10. KRISCHER does not teach or suggest

a splash guard extending from the edge (of the opening) into the opening towards the back wall, as recited in claim 1.

METTE in Figure 2 teaches a urinal housing 2. However, METTE is silent as to a splash guard extending from the continuous edge into an opening towards the back wall as recited.

The above noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Independent claims 20 and 21 are similarly amended to include the subject matter of claim 18 and recite a splash guard extending from the continuous edge. The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claims 20 and 21.

As set forth in the response to the restriction requirement filed April 11, 2005, claim 1 is believed generic. Claim 1 as presently amended is still believed generic. Accordingly, withdrawn claims 5-17 which depend from claim 1 and further define the invention, should be examined and allowed as part of the present application.

New claim 22 depends from claim 1 and further defines the invention and is also believed patentable over the cited prior art. Support for claim 22 can be found on page 6, lines 18-19 of the application as filed.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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